

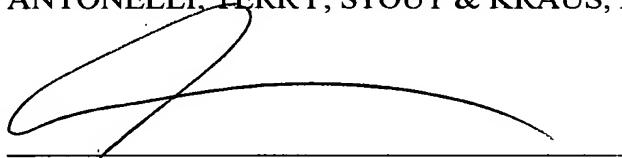
REMARKS

The foregoing amendments are respectfully requested prior to examination on the merits of this application. A marked up copy of the amended claims is attached.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (Case: 865.41190X00), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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REWRITTEN MARKED UP COPYIN THE CLAIMS:

3. (Amended) Method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 2~~ claim 1, characterised in that to the wood pulp layer is applied a fourth layer as a cover layer and everything is together subjected to hydrodynamic needling for connection purposes.

4. (Amended) Device for accomplishing the method according to ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1, characterised in that the continuous plant comprising firstly a web-laying device such as a carding machine (1-4) or a spunbonded fabric system to produce a carrier nonwoven, then, in order to reduce the loss of pulp fibres in the subsequent consolidation, a meltblowing device (7) to apply a fine intermediate layer formed from microfibres, then a device (8) to apply this pulp fibre (wood pulp) layer, and finally a water needling device (11) to connect the pulp fibres to the microfibres and possibly also the fibres of the carrier layer.

6. (Amended) Device according to claim 4 ~~or 5~~, characterised in that following the web-laying device (1-4) for the carrier nonwoven, first of all for pre-consolidating the carrier nonwoven, there is a water needling device (6) which is followed in line by the meltblowing device (7).